

And behind them every power knows that the United States has no land hunger, that their territory is absolutely safe so far as the United States is concerned, and that quiets any suspicion that they may feel toward other powers and makes them at all times willing to listen to any suggestions from our government.

Another matter which makes for peace on this continent is the drawing into closer relations all the republics, save Venezuela, of both North and South America. Two weeks ago the corner stone of the new building of the American republics was laid at Washington with imposing ceremonies. Mr. Carnegie gave \$750,000 to the nation to be expended on the building. The location is about half way between the state, war and navy building and the Potomac. The tract of five acres, provided by congress is bounded on every side by streets and to the south and east faces public parks. On the day the corner stone was laid the flags of twenty-one republics floated over the site and each republic was represented by an accredited representative. These republics long ago agreed that the Bureau of the Republics should be located in Washington. The board is composed of the official representatives in Washington of all the Republics. The board, moreover, constitutes a permanent committee to see that the resolutions of each Pan-American Congress are faithfully carried out.

Three of these Congresses have been held—at Washington, the City of Mexico, and at Rio de Janeiro, and the fourth is to convene at Buenos Ayres. The present director is Mr. John Barrett, who was formerly minister to Argentina and Colombia, who seems to be exactly the man for the place. The bureau carries on an immense correspondence with every country of both continents answering questions as to the varying laws, customs and opportunities of the various states. It published a monthly bulletin of current events and existing conditions, which serves to draw the various peoples into a closer acquaintance and advertises every country. This congress was inaugurated by Mr. Blaine. Since then Secretary of State Root has shown more interest and performed more real work to make of the bureau a real international institution than any other man.

In the course of his speech at the laying of the corner stone, the President said: "I believe that history will say that though we have had other great secretaries of state, we have had none greater than Elihu Root, and that though in his high office he has done much for the good of his nation and of mankind, yet that his greatest achievement has been the success which has come as the result of his devoted labor to bring closer together all the republics of the New World, and to unite them in the effort to work valiantly for our common betterment, for the material and moral welfare of all who dwell in the Western Hemisphere."

There is but one thing lacking. We should have regular lines of great steamships to both coasts of South America to be followed by American railroads to the interior and thus have a closer walk with those peoples.

The Poor and the Government.

The revenues from the mines are not so great as they were a year ago, but they are very great still. Suppose they were reduced to a small dividend in the autumn. It would be pretty hard getting along here, would it not? Well, if that were the case it would be here as it is in the east. From that fact we can get an idea of how much distress there is in the east, how many thousands of people there do not know which way to turn. Of course they can live cheaper than western people live, but they cannot go without food and clothing. We say times are hard and business is dull, but suppose the people here had to face what the people in twenty eastern states are facing now. We mean the wage earners with whom the loss of a day's work is a sorrow. Many of them have been out of employment for half a year. Is it a wonder that men are in despair and women are broken-hearted? We shall hear from them when election day comes. No matter how finely spun are the platforms; no matter how eloquent orators may be, or how earnest may be the press, an empty stomach is a dangerous thing to reason from. And surely Congress since December last has missed many an opportunity. It is not the business of a Government to find work for the unemployed, but it is its business to remove obstacles from the path of labor, and when a calamity has come because of unwise legislation it is the government's place to correct the wrongs. Those people ought to be at work, and they ought to be drawing their pay in money which will entail no great interest burden upon the people.

Reserves and Reproduction.

In his speech to the Governors and their advisers in Washington the President stated that when mineral resources are exhausted they cannot be renewed, but other resources like timber can be renewed. Of course that was but a statement of fact, but it was pertinent. The President seems particularly anxious that there shall be no further waste. That emboldens us to remind him and the country that since 1873 quite \$600,000,000 has been stolen from silver miners through a law which was criminal on its face, but which the government of the great United States has refused to repeal. Because of this same law the people of the country who with a little property and their own labor try to make a living have lost very much more than that amount. And the waste is still going on. When the great mines of Mexico and Peru were in Bonanza and their product was sent to Europe, quadrupling the money of that continent, of course business took on a great boom. But there was no thought of demonetizing silver. In the course of a century or that mighty production silver fell off only five points in its ratio to gold. But where are those great bonanzas now? They were mineral and being worked out they could not be restored. Well our mines are being worked out much faster than were the Spanish mines. In them no ores are brought up from 800 to 1200 feet on the heads of peons. One hoisting engine can beat that 1,000 to 1. So by and by the precious metal mines of

the west will begin to fall. When that time comes what will the men of that day think of the men who when, in our country, they were facing an interest-bearing indebtedness equal to all the money in the world converted one-half of the whole stock of money into a commodity? This was done, too, when all the representative of money which the people had to use was paper, utterly worthless, save for the stamp of the government upon it. What will they think, too, when it will be told them that the only purpose behind this was to reduce all forms of property 50 per cent in value, so that the interest gatherers could realize two dollars for their paper which only called for one? Finally what will they think when it is told them that the people of the United States which had been held as reasonably intelligent, ratified the steal even when they saw that their property had been reduced 50 per cent in value by it? We commend to the President and the other great statesmen that they reflect upon future results, for silver does not belong to that class of natural products which can reproduce itself. When an ounce of it or a ton of it is taken from the mine, the mine is reduced by just that much, and for all time. There will come a time when the men of this country will need that material. Indeed, though they cannot see it, they need it now more than any other one thing. As is pointed out by Mr. Moreton Frenen and ex-Senator J. P. Jones, they are killing their trade with the Orient and Spanish America, with quite half the people of this world, by their treatment of silver, and are at the same time getting their own finances into inextricable confusion. The President seems especially solicitous to stretch forest reserves in all directions that the forests may restore themselves. He had better stretch a forest reserve over the brains of Wall Street to see if on that singularly barren soil any seeds of common sense will spring up.

How Astor Did It.

In a current magazine is the story of John Jacob Astor, how his master stroke of business was when he engaged in the fur trade and sent his own ships on three year voyages, how they entered the mouth of the Columbia, founded Astoria and drew from that region the material out of which the shrewd German amassed a great fortune. It is clear, however, had old John been like a majority of our congress, he never would have done anything like that. He would have hired English ships and captains to do that work for would they not have done it cheaper by contract than Astor could possibly have done it? Would not their sailors have worked for half the wages that old John paid? Could not the English captains have skimmed the food? True the Englishmen might have been less energetic than Astor's captains. It is certain they would never have named a place Astoria; it is quite possible that they would have claimed the whole country for their own sovereign and that Hood valley and Willamette valley would now have been a part of British Columbia as much as Victoria is, but judging by what our law makers have been

FREED FURNITURE AND CARPET COMPANY'S

TREMENDOUS CLEARANCE SALE STARTS MONDAY MORNING.

SEE SATURDAY EVENING AND SUNDAY MORNING PAPERS FOR PRICES AND PARTICULARS